

THE MEDICAL NEWS

AND

LIBRARY.

VOL. I. MARCH, 1843. No. 3.

CONTENTS.

CLINICS.	
Philadelphia Hospital, Blockley—Clinical Lecture by W. W. Gerhard, M. D.,	41
Pennsylvania Hospital,	42
MEDICAL EDUCATION AND INSTITUTIONS.	
The Good Physician,	43
Gratuitous Medical Education,	44
Officers of the Philadelphia Medical Society,	44
Officers of the New York Medical and Surgical Society,	45
Geneva Medical College,	45
ILLUSTRATIONS AND SKETCHES OF MEDICAL QUACKERY.	
Pretended Cure of Cataract by Prussic Acid,	46
Victim to Homœopathy,	46
MEDICAL NEWS.	
Domestic Intelligence.—Discovery of a Direct Communication between the Pulmonary Air Vessels and the Pulmonary Veins,	46
Ligature of the Common Iliac Artery,	46
Meum and Teum,	46
Eastern Penitentiary,	47
Brodie's Lectures,	47
Foreign Intelligence.—Ligature of Aorta,	47
Inoculation in Measles,	47
Spermatozoa within the Mammary Ovary,	47
Extraordinary Example of Plagiarism,	47
Silver Tea-spoon, which had been Swallowed, discharged through an Abscess in the Gastric Region,	47
Sweating Sickness,	47
Preservation of Leeches,	47
Successful Treatment of Idiocy,	48
Influence of Solar Eclipses on Animals,	48
Accident to Baron Berzelius,	48
French Royal Academy of Medicine,	48
University College Hospital,	48
Hydrogen a Metal,	48
To Readers and Correspondents,	48
WATSON'S LECTURES,	8 pages.

CLINICS:

PHILADELPHIA HOSPITAL, BLOCKLEY.

Clinical Lecture on the Physical Signs of Diseases of the Heart, and on the easiest mode of learning them. By W. W. GERHARD, M. D., Lecturer on Clinical Medicine to the University of Pennsylvania, and one of the Physicians to the Philadelphia Hospital, Blockley.

In our preceding lecture we made some remarks on a case of pericarditis of no little interest, and upon the means of diagnosing the diseases of the heart without reference to the physical signs. In order to complete the subject, it may be of some benefit to give you a sketch of those physical signs which are more particularly connected with the diseases of the heart, with a description of the easiest mode of acquiring them.

I find that most people acquire more readily the bellows and rasping sounds than any others. Both of these signs may often be met with in a moderate circle of practice. You will learn them most easily in chronic diseases of the heart, in which they last a long time. They are chiefly systolic, occur more commonly at the upper portion of the heart than elsewhere, and you will be sure to meet with them in a large proportion of patients labouring under the rational symptoms of organic disease. The precise circumstances under which they occur are pointed out to you in cases as they present themselves. Thus, for example, as an illustration of the bellows and rasping sounds varying from one to the other according to the changes of the inflammation, you have the case of pericarditis now under observation, in which an acute organic disease causes the sound. As an illustration of the same sound caused by functional disease, there is the case of Mary D—, now in the

Published Monthly by LEA & BLANCHARD, Philadelphia, at One Dollar a year, payable in advance.

This number contains one sheet, and will pay newspaper postage. It is printed 32 pages to a sheet.

VOL. I.—3

hospital, who presented a very pure bellows sound, louder than in the other case, though less acute. Of the chronic cases, many have presented themselves to your observation during the last few weeks.

The sawing sound is rarely learned until a later period. Its distinctive character is, as you know, the double movement, the roughness being heard both in systole and diastole. The impulsion of the heart is also easily learned, and you may discriminate between that of the two classes of affections, if you pay attention to the momentum already alluded to.

More stress was laid upon the connection between the pulse and diseases of the heart formerly than at present; that is, the pulse is now examined more at the heart itself by the stethoscope than at the radial artery. Your own observation must have shown you the cause of this. The patient now under treatment for pericarditis offers a perfectly regular and scarcely febrile pulse. The same is sometimes the case in endocarditis. The patient who died lately at the hospital with pneumonia and endocarditis, with ulceration of the valves, presented no irregularity or intermittence of the pulse. Daily observation shows that this also occurs in many other acute diseases of the heart. But there are other patients who offer intermittence and many irregularities of the pulse formerly regarded as characteristic of cardiac inflammation; so that the value of the pulse is evidently quite secondary, and you may say dependent upon the other signs which accompany it.

In chronic disease the pulse is of more importance, but still an inconclusive symptom. We commonly say of it that in hypertrophy with dilatation, it is full and strong; in simple dilatation it has much less force; in softening of the heart, which is usually connected with humoral disease, it is soft and feeble. Even its rapidity is often less considerable than in pure cardiac phlegmasiæ. In diseases of the valves the pulse is of more value. It is only in exceptional cases that the pulse is but little affected. As a general rule in contraction, both of the semi-lunar and of the mitral valve, the pulse becomes irregular and often weak. This is especially the case with contractions about the latter valve, which produce more disturbance of the pulse, especially greater irregularity, than any other chronic disease of the heart. But you must be on your guard against attaching too great

importance to irregularity or intermittence of the pulse. They are of frequent occurrence in convalescence from acute diseases, especially the exanthemata of children. They occur about the termination of the febrile excitement, and they constitute favourable signs rather than the reverse.

It forms, of course, no part of the design of this lecture, to insist upon the connection between the physical signs and particular alterations. You are well aware that I am far from attaching less importance to them than they deserve. They are truly indispensable to accurate diagnosis, and the study of them is by no means attended with great difficulties to any one whose organs of hearing are not extremely defective, and who is in earnest in the study of his profession. My present object is to render them more easy by showing you how far what are termed the rational signs will lead you, and by pointing out to you the first steps you should take in the study of physical diagnosis. You will render them still more easy by becoming thoroughly conversant with the sounds of the healthy heart; and as the opportunities for this study are always at hand, it will be your own fault if you neglect to turn them to an account, by repeated examinations of healthy individuals of both sexes and of various ages of life.

PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL.

SURGICAL WARDS.

Admissions since Feb. 17, for injuries and surgical diseases, - - -	13
Do. for recent accidental injuries, -	11
Total, - - - -	24

Among the accidental cases admitted, there were—1 incised wound of the scalp; 1 lacerated wound of the cheek; 1 lacerated wound of the upper lip; 5 contusions; 1 sprained ankle, and 2 Barton's fracture of the radius.

Discharged since Feb. 17, cured, -	23
Do. do. relieved, -	2
Do. do. dead, -	1
Total, - - - -	31

Among the accidental cases discharged, there were 1 incised wound of the scalp, cured; 1 incised wound of the knee, in which the ligamentum patellæ had been severed and the joint laid open; (the patient in this case

was transported sixty miles on a railroad, and brought into the hospital within forty-eight hours after the occurrence of the accident. His wound, which had at once been carefully dressed, was followed in three days by violent articular inflammation; extensive suppuration in and around the joint early supervened, abscess after abscess formed, apparently involving in succession the whole interior of the implicated thigh, and these local symptoms were accompanied by those of the gravest constitutional irritation and subsequently of extreme prostration;—Cured in five months with ankylosis of the knee.) 1 lacerated wound of the cheek, 1 do. of the upper lip, and 1 do. of the foot, all cured;—1 contused wound of the leg; 1 Barton's fracture of the radius, cured; 1 oblique fracture of the os femoris, (mid. 3d,) cured without appreciable shortening, and 1 oblique fracture of the tibia, cured.

The number of accidental cases admitted and discharged during the last month, is remarkably small. The number of cases not accidental, treated in the wards, also continues unusually small.

EDWARD HARTSHORNE,
Resident Surgeon.

FEB. 21.

MEDICAL EDUCATION AND INSTITUTIONS.

The Good Physician.—This is the title of an "Introductory" to the course of Lectures on Materia Medica and Therapeutics in the Medical Department of Transylvania University, for the session of 1842-3; delivered by Prof. Thomas D. Mitchell, M. D. Published by the Medical Class.

The lecture is short, and apparently intended but for a temporary object; but some of the subjects noticed and opinions expressed appear to us of so much importance, that we are induced to call attention to it. With all the zeal which marks his character, Dr. M. inveighs strongly and decidedly against that superficial style of medical study which is to so great an extent the professional calamity of our country. Few professors, it is very probable, would speak so much and so earnestly in favour of a view of things which has been sometimes thought to militate against the interests of universities, endangering the driving away of students by demanding too much of them. The writer

of the present notes will not praise Dr. Mitchell for any high degree of elaboration in his discourse, either as regards the lucidus ordo, or the accuracy of the pen and the proof-sheet. We were sometimes tempted to smile when contrasting what we thought its defects with its eloquent declamation in favour of thorough education for a physician. Yet the manliness, love of country and of science, and disinterested willingness to diffuse truth at all hazards, which seem to us really to characterise his brief lecture, are qualities of a far higher class.

The superficial volubility, the high estimate of self, and the boldness of ignorance, too frequently found claiming to belong to our profession, are strongly characterised by our author. He refers them to the unreasonable ambition of vast numbers of families, unable to do justice to the undertaking, to make a son a "doctor." He then gives us a somewhat hasty sketch of the requisites of a real physician; which he with good reason observes, are no where of a more startling necessity than in the courts of justice. The distressing position of a half-informed medical man, when called upon in an important law case, is perhaps the strongest example which can be cited.

The want of a more extended course of medical and preliminary instruction, and, in many cases, of a higher moral rule, among the members and in the education of our profession, has long been the subject of deep regret to numbers of the wise and good. It is not, however, among the students that the neglect of this feeling is to be complained of. At the most generous and frank moment of life, those who are just entering our profession have been always, when we knew them, advocates of every thing that tended to ennoble the sphere in which they meant to move, no matter at what amount of delay, difficulty and expense to themselves. "Is he not to be doubted?" asks a character in one of Scribe's pieces, said to be intended to represent the manœuvres of the celebrated Talleyrand. The wily man of years and much experience, answers something like this: "At his age, never! I never doubt one just entering upon the career of life, and who has scarcely reached manly age; but when they are two or three years older, the case is altered. Then they are *men*;" using, here, the latter word in the bad sense so familiar to memoir writers. It is not among the *students* that the difficulty occurs. With them all is

frankness and honourable ambition. Nor is it, we think, among the qualities of what we would call the "immortal youth" of the Kentucky character. Whatever be her faults and others' merits, it is not in Kentucky, we are persuaded, that science languishes for want of liberal views, real patriotism, and manly honesty of mind. It is not youth, still less Kentucky youth, that requires to be reminded of the condition of forced hypocrisy in which the young graduate is placed by a system, limiting and omitting to name the qualifications required by the wants of the country, and the grade of intelligence and science of the associations among whom his lot is cast; and all from the fear of alarming him for his purse.

Quid non mortalia pectora cogis,
Auri sacra fames?

It is to the public, the social and political public, that the appeal should be addressed; to those who ultimately suffer, and to those who regulate. Still, amid the silence imposed by a reverence for vested rights, it is cheering to hear the voice of the fervent and earnest professor of Kentucky; and, in our opinion, he deserves the highest praise for thus urging a high professional duty at what others would think the risk of his personal advantages.

B. H. C.

Gratuitous Medical Education.—We invite serious attention to the following just remarks on this subject by Professor D. DRAKE, of Louisville.

"It is a popular and amiable idea (if amiability can be predicated of an opinion), that medical education and graduation should be brought within the reach of poor young men; and so it should, if it can at the same time be made such as to maintain the scientific dignity of the profession, and supply the community with physicians and surgeons who are thoroughly acquainted with all that is necessary to successful practice. These latter considerations impose limits to facility of graduation, which cannot be passed, without trampling under foot the demands of the science and the safety of society. All regulations, then, which encourage young men, unendowed with academic learning and the means of prolonged and ample medical study, to engage in the latter, are unjustifiable.

"This mistaken beneficence to indigent young men, is a real (though undesigned) depredation on great interests which should never be overlooked. In a comparison of

these, where no claims of justice are involved, those of the majority should be respected; especially, when by doing so the minority will not suffer. Such would be the fact in the present matter; for it cannot be doubted, that young men who have neither the preparatory education, nor the means of adequate connection with medical schools, would do better for themselves, by directing their enterprise (often of the most laudable kind) upon pursuits, for which they are prepared, and for which their limited resources would be sufficient. It is certainly better to be a good merchant, mechanic, farmer or lawyer, than a bad doctor." * * * *

"Let it not be said that if several of the facilities to matriculation and graduation in our schools, which now exist (but which we do not propose to enumerate at this time), were superseded by others, requiring higher preparatory attainment, longer professional study, and deeper scientific impregnation, there would be any deficiency of physicians. If it should a little diminish the aggregate number, it would increase the efficiency of each, and society would be better served, with less of that *downward* competition, which prevails not less among physicians than professors. The first and greatest effect of the new regulations would be, to invite to the study of medicine those, and those only, who are well prepared by preliminary instruction, pecuniary means, talents and ambition, to make the profound and varied acquisitions in science, which are indispensable to the progressive improvement of the profession, and the safety and welfare of society. Many such are now excluded, because they see that superficial attainment, even without future study, may procure business; and not choosing to compete on such low ground, they turn to other pursuits. We might pursue this subject much further, and may resume it, at some convenient time."—*The Western Journ. of Med. and Surg.*

OFFICERS OF THE PHILADELPHIA MEDICAL SOCIETY.—*President*, Robert M. Huston, M. D. *Vice Presidents*, Geo. McClellan, M. D., Benjamin H. Coates, M. D. *Treasurer*, John Wiltbank, M. D. *Corresponding Secretaries*, Isaac Parrish, M. D., Joseph Warrington, M. D. *Senior Recording Secretary*, John J. Reese, M. D. *Librarian*, A. D. Benedict, M. D. *Orator*, Robert M. Bird, M. D. *Curators*, James Bryan, M. D., Wm. Temple Craige, M. D.

NEW
SOCIETY
Macdon
Swett
D. Se

Gene
the ann
last, the
36 grad

ILLUS
OF

The
are larg
sanctity.

Addis
had a bo
with a
sorts of
doctor ad
speaks tr

The p
fective.

variety o
cine, an
This is v
cant is m
is told of
ill in his
cident to
In fact, h
ing and d

The la
tudinarian
persons w
cures, an
the numb
been cure

Horace
instances
ery. "S
a lithontri
a man wh
cer in the
after by th
sicked and
for a sligh

The se
murder, m
"There is
is seldom
duced to
the life of
often take

NEW YORK MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SOCIETY.—OFFICERS. *President*, James Macdonald, M. D. *Vice President*, John Swett, M. D. *Treasurer*, C. R. King, M. D. *Secretary*, I. E. Taylor, M. D.

Geneva Medical College, New York.—At the annual commencement on the 24th Jan. last, the degree of M. D. was conferred upon 36 graduates.

ILLUSTRATIONS AND SKETCHES OF MEDICAL QUACKERY.

The distinguished features of empiricism are large promises, stout lies, and affected sanctity.

Addison tells us of a Parisian quack, who had a boy walking before him, publishing, with a shrill voice, "My father cures all sorts of distempers." To which the quack doctor added, in a grave manner, "The child speaks truly."

The pretended piety of quacks is very effective. All their bills and books attest a variety of cures, done partly by their medicine, and partly by the blessing of God. This is very emphatical and effective, when cant is mistaken for true religion. A story is told of a man who, although he was never ill in his life, was cured of every disease incident to human nature, and swore to it also. In fact, his life was a life of continued swearing and disease.

The late Lord Gardestone, himself a valetudinarian, took the pains to inquire for those persons who had actually attested marvellous cures, and found more than two-thirds of the number died very shortly *after they had been cured*.

Horace Walpole gives us several amusing instances of distinguished victims to quackery. "Sir Robert," says he, "was killed by a lithontriptic medicine; Lord Bolingbroke by a man who pretended to cure him of a cancer in the face; and Winnington died soon after by the ignorance of a quack, who phisicked and bled him to death in a few days, for a slight rheumatism."

The sentimental Yorick, in speaking of murder, makes the following observations:—"There is another species of this crime, which is seldom taken notice of, and yet can be reduced to no other class—and that is, where the life of our neighbour is shortened, and often taken away, as directly as by a weapon,

by the empirical sale of nostrums and quack medicines—which ignorance and avarice blend. The loud tongue of ignorance impudently promises much,—and the ear of the sick is open. And, as many of these pretenders deal in edge tools, too many, I fear, perish with the misapplication of them. So great are the difficulties of tracing out the hidden causes of the evils to which this frame of ours is subject,—that the most candid of the profession have ever allowed and lamented how unavoidably they are in the dark. So that the best medicines, administered with the wisest heads, shall often do the mischief they are intended to prevent. These are misfortunes to which we are subject in this state of darkness;—but when men without skill,—without education,—without knowledge, either of the distemper, or even of what they sell—make merchandise of the miserable—and, from a dishonest principle, trifle with the pains of the unfortunate, too often with their lives—and from the mere motive of a dishonest gain,—every such instance of a person bereft of life by the hand of ignorance, can be considered in no other light than a branch of the same root. It is murder in the true sense;—which, though not cognizable by the laws,—by the laws of right, to every man's own mind and conscience, must appear equally black and detestable."

"Within a very short period," says a retailer of medical gossip, "flourished, in the Isle of Wight, a man who was formerly mate of a ship. This fellow began his career at Lymington; and, happily for the inhabitants of Cowes, continued it there: I say, happily, for the credulous came to him in droves, and all the lodgings in the town were occupied. He was a blessing to the owners of boats and packets, and the public houses there. This wonderful man pretended to cure the sick, the lame, the halt, and the blind. The applications were so many, that he formed a committee, by whom the patients were to be introduced twelve per diem. It must be confessed that his mode of healing the lame and the palsied was ingenious. He broke their crutches and hung them up in his hall of audience, as trophies of his skill! Some of the patients were cured by being frightened. At length the bubble burst; people were obliged to buy new crutches: others dying, had no necessity for such purchase; and the rest had their excursion for nothing.—*Physic and Physicians.*

Pretended Cure of Cataract by Prussic Acid.—In our first No., p. 12, we alluded to the charlatanerie of Mr. Turnbull, who professed to effect cures of cataract, opacities of the cornea, amaurosis, &c., by the vapour of prussic acid. Mr. J. B. Estlin, the distinguished surgeon to the Bristol Dispensary of the cure of complaints of the eye, relates in the *Provincial Journal*, (Dec. 10, 1842,) a case which fully confirms the correctness of our views as to the character of Mr. T., and the efficacy of his remedy.

The patient, a Mr. C., labouring under inflammation of the eye, applied to Mr. Estlin, and gave the following account of himself. He stated that he had been for some time the subject of cataract in the left eye; 'being desirous of its removal, he had consulted Mr. John Soden, of Bath, who advised him, as his power of seeing with the right eye was very perfect, not to undergo an operation upon the left. Having seen in the Bath newspapers an article copied from the "*Literary Gazette*," stating upon the authority of the editor of that periodical, that a certain physician in London cured cataracts by the application of the vapour of prussic acid, he went to London and placed himself under the care of this practitioner, who gave him every encouragement to believe that the cataract would speedily be dissolved, and who daily applied the prussic acid, expressing himself satisfied with the progress of the cure. At the end of two or three weeks, finding his eye not improved, Mr. C. said he could remain no longer in London; the physician then performed an operation upon the cataract with an instrument, which was followed by the violent inflammation I saw, and while suffering from it he was obliged to return into the country. 'For four consecutive weeks (we quote the patient, Mr. C.'s, words) did he (Mr. Turnbull) apply the prussic acid to my eye. The method which he practised was this. I applied to him; he examined the eye, and professed to restore it to perfect health in a few days by the external application of prussic acid. He applied it to the eye; each successive day he appeared to discover an improvement, and repeatedly declared to me that he had known a cataract dissolve in twelve hours after the application of the acid. I consequently expected to awake some morning in the full possession of brilliant sight. He did not perform the operation which has caused me so much agony till three weeks had expired, because not till that time

had the prussic acid made the cataract to form on the surface of the eye.' Mr. C. states that during this attendance he paid the usual physicians' fees. After pursuing the plan I had prescribed for him, Mr. C. writes me word, the pain and inflammation gradually subsided, and at the date of his last letter (November 16), he expected in a few days the inflammation would be entirely removed: neither the prussic acid, however, nor the operation had dispersed the cataract.

What will the editor of the *Literary Gazette* now say to those cures which he professes to have actually seen performed! It is manifest that he has been the dupe of a charlatan.

Victim to Homœopathy.—Some excitement, it appears, from our recent Journals by the Acadia, has been created in London by the death of Lady Denbigh, under the treatment of two disciples of Hahnemann. The lady was attacked with puerperal convulsions, against which infinitesimal doses were of course impotent, apoplectic coma followed, and death closed the scene.

Malibran died at Manchester in the hands of the same description of gentry.

MEDICAL NEWS.

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

Discovery of a direct communication between the Pulmonary Air Vesicles and the Pulmonary Veins.—Professor HORNER, of the University of Pennsylvania, whose skill in minute anatomical injections is unrivaled, has succeeded in injecting a fluid from the air cells of the lungs into the pulmonary veins, none of it passing into the arteries. Dr. H. is now engaged in further experiments relative to this subject, and intends communicating an account of them for publication in the next number of the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*.

Ligature of the common Iliac Artery.—The patient on whom this operation was performed last summer by Dr. Peace, in the Pennsylvania Hospital, is now entirely cured. We understand that the operator has furnished for the next No. of the *American Journal*, full details of this very interesting case, the result of which is so creditable to his skill.

Meum and Teum.—We observe that the editors of the *Western Journal of Med. and Surgery* have done the editor of the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences* the honor to estimate several of the articles of his quarterly summary of sufficient value to be transferred to the pages of their Journal. They have considered the compliment of making use of his labours, however, sufficient, without thinking it necessary to make the acknowledgment which bare justice requires in such a case.

Eastern Penitentiary.—Dr. Edw. Hartshorne has been elected Resident Physician to this Institution. An excellent appointment.

BRODIE'S Lecture on the Diseases of the Urinary Organs.—Some misapprehension seems to exist in regard to the edition of this work, recently issued by Messrs. Lea & Blanchard. It is a *reprint* from the third London edition, into which the author has introduced the results of his later and more extended experience. The alterations and additions announced in the title-page are by the *author*. It is almost unnecessary to add, that the work is one of the highest authority.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

Ligature of Aorta.—Dr. Monteiro, of Rio Janeiro, in July last, it is said, applied a ligature to the abdominal aorta immediately above its bifurcation. The patient died on the 10th day.

Inoculation in Measles.—A Hungarian physician, Dr. Katona, is said to have communicated measles by inoculation with the fluid from a vesicle and the tears of a patient labouring under that disease.

Spermatozoa within the Mammary Ovary.—Dr. MARTIN BARRY read to the Royal Society on the 8th of December last, a paper in which he stated that he had discovered spermatozoa within the ova of a rabbit taken 24 hours post coitum from the Fallopian tube.

Extraordinary Example of Plagiarism.—The *Provincial Medical Journal*, of 21st January last, contains the following statement.

"The compendium of Dr. Jonathan Green, published as an *original* work, dedicated to Sir Henry Hallford, and highly lauded by every section of the medical press, is a mere *translation from beginning to end* of the 'Abrégé Pratique des Maladies de la Peau,' by MM. Cazenave and Schedel. A few original cases, it is true, have been added by Dr. Green, and here and there, at the commencement of a chapter, we find a few lines of introductory matter; but with these exceptions, the whole work, from beginning to end—the arrangement of cutaneous diseases—the description of symptoms and treatment—the order of the several chapters—and the well-known essay on the syphilides—the *whole*, we repeat, is a mere translation of the work of M. Cazenave.

"How any man pretending to a literary reputation, or to reputation of any kind, could have been guilty of such wholesale appropriation of another's goods, we cannot pretend to divine, nor explain how this transaction hitherto escaped the notice of our brother critics."

Silver Tea-spoon, which had been Swallowed, discharged through an Abscess in the Gastric Region.—Dr. OGMUNDSEN relates, in a recent No. of the *Zeitschrift für die Gesamte Medicin*, the case of a man who, during an attack of mania, with a view to suicide, swallowed a silver tea-spoon. A year afterwards this spoon was discharged from an abscess in the gastric region. The patient recovered.

Sweating Sickness.—This pestiferous disease, which caused such ravages in England in the 14th and 15th centuries, has prevailed in some of the departments of France during the past year. In the department of Dordogne, out of a population of 82,200 persons, 10,400 were attacked, of whom 800 perished, being a mortality of 1 in 13. It was observed to rage mostly in marshy situations, and to be best treated in a similar manner to intermittent fever, viz. with quinine, and other tonics, taking particular care to interfere in no way with the march of the miliary eruption.—*Gazette des Hôpitaux*.

Preservation of Leeches.—A writer in the *Annals of Chemistry*, gives the following method of preserving leeches, which is a very simple one, and may prove useful to country practitioners.

A quantity of pure clay is procured, to which must be added as much pure water as will make it so plastic as to be easily formed into *irregular shaped balls*, say two inches and a half in diameter. These are placed into a square deep wooden box, or, what will answer equally well, a five gallon keg; a cover is quite unnecessary. The leeches are then put in, immediately on which they creep down the sides of the balls of clay, and there remain. When required for use, the balls are carefully removed, and the leeches are taken out. It will invariably be found, that leeches kept in this way will, without hesitation and at once, lay hold of any part to which they may be applied. It will be borne in mind that the balls must be renewed weekly.

Successful Treatment of Idiocy.—M. SEGUIN, a young philanthropist, who has devoted himself to the instruction of children afflicted with idiocy, proposed to teach after his method a number of children taken from the hospitals. The *Conseil des Hospices*, on the report of M. Orfila, granted his request. He was entrusted with twelve children, from the age of eight to sixteen, who were living in the Hospital of Incurables, and who were certified to be idiots of reputed incurability. Not one of them could read or write; several could but stammer a few words; others merely uttered a few inarticulate sounds; some were epileptic, and three or four had continual convulsive movements. After a year of assiduity, M. Seguin presented the children to a commission composed of MM. Fouché, Halper, and Orfila. It was found that they could all read, and that some could write copies; that almost all spoke distinctly, and that their answers were correct; some could add, subtract, and even multiply.

They had also gained much physically, so that those children who before were merely a burden to the house, are now of use to it. —*Lond. Med. Gaz.* Nov. 1842, from *Gaz. Med. de Paris*, Oct. 1842.

Influence of Solar Eclipses on Animals.—M. ARAGO, in his account to the Academy of Sciences of the solar eclipse of 8th July last, stated that he had often heard accounts of birds dying from the mere influence of an eclipse of the sun; but could scarcely credit the statement, as they could only die from fear; and the discharge of a gun ought to frighten them much more, and yet it is

certain that it does not kill them, unless they are actually hit. One of M. Arago's friends made the following experiment:—He placed five linnets in a cage, they were lively and active, and fed up to the moment of the eclipse, when the eclipse had terminated three of them were dead.

A dog was kept fasting from morning; immediately before the eclipse he was offered food and fell on it greedily; but when the dusk commenced, he suddenly ceased eating.

The horned cattle in the fields seemed affected with a kind of vague terror; during the eclipse they lay down in a circle, their heads being arranged towards the circumference, as if to face a common danger.

The darkness influenced even the smallest animals. M. Fraisse observed a number of mice which were running briskly, become suddenly still when the eclipse began.

Accident to Baron Berzelius.—This eminent chemist narrowly escaped with his life from an explosion in his laboratory, whilst pursuing some investigation.

M. Louis has been promoted to the rank of Officer of the Legion of Honour.

French Royal Academy of Medicine.—Sir James Clark, Dr. Abercromby, Dr. Bright, Dr. Hall, Mr. Samuel Cooper, Mr. Guthrie, Mr. Lawrence, and Mr. Travers, have recently been appointed honorary members of this body.

University College Hospital.—The Medical officers of this institution contribute something over 3,000*l.* per annum towards its support; the public about 550*l.*—*Prov. Med. Journ.*

Hydrogen a Metal.—M. Dumas is said to have recently expressed the opinion that hydrogen should no longer be considered as a metalloid, but a real metal: he asserts it to be a gaseous metal, as mercury is a liquid metal.

TO READERS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

We have an interesting clinical lecture by Professor Jackson for our next number.

The hiatus which appears to exist between the introductory and second lecture of Dr. Watson, is owing to an error in the paging.

VOL.

Pennsy
Clinica
Dr. W
ILLQuacke
Treatm
The RiDomest
Preco
Bugs vo
Jujube
Medical

PE

Phys
Dr. Ge

Adm

diseases
injuries
cidental

Amo

3 centu

fifths o

from a

2 incise

the low

radius;

third o

affected

the sem

the hum

tion.

Publ

This

Vol.